

CHC Chairman, Members will meet with former detainees; workers who suffered labor violations; and American citizen children left behind in aftermath of largest-ever ICE raid

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Media Contact: Rebecca Dreilinger (202) 225-8203

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Washington, DC) Congressman Luis V. Gutierrez (D-IL) today announced details of this Saturday's trip to Postville, Iowa, where he, Chairman Joe Baca (D-CA) and Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) will visit those most impacted by the May 12, 2008 Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raid of the Agriprocessors meatpacking plant. All meetings will be open to press.

"An immigration system that is predicated on fear tactics and piecemeal, deportation-only policies profoundly worsens our immigration crisis by creating broken homes and tearing the fabric of our society," said Rep. Gutierrez. "We have seen exactly that in Postville, Iowa."

"The Administration may have successfully pandered to anti-immigrant extremists and conservative pundits, but it truly failed nearly 400 hardworking families, who are now left with an impossible daily struggle to feed their children, many of whom are U.S. citizens. Meanwhile, their employers—who are accused of wage and hour violations, child labor and physical and sexual abuse—face no charges."

WHO:

Congressman Joe Baca, Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus
Congressman Luis V. Gutierrez, Chairman of the CHC Immigration Task Force
Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano, CHC Whip
Congressman Albio Sires, Chairman of the CHC Task Force on Economic Development

WHERE: St. Bridget's Church, 135 W. Williams St.. Postville, Iowa 52162
WHEN: Saturday, July 26, 2008, 10:00am - 1:00pm

WHAT:

I. Welcome and Introductions

Members meet a 13-year-old U.S. citizen whose parent was detained in the raid, and two women who h

II. Community Impact

Members of the local relief team, including the town mayor, school principal, and religious leaders, exam

III. Legal Matters

A review of the legal process that detained workers faced; how much of the process they understood; an

IV. Labor Matters

A review of the ongoing labor investigation at Agriprocessors and the experiences of individual workers

V. Wrap Up

Postville community members present their requests of Members of Congress. Members of the CHC wil

In addition to the CHC Members' visit on Saturday, July 26th, activists from across the country

will gather in Postville on Sunday, July 27th for an interfaith service, march and rally calling for comprehensive immigration reform, family unification and just labor practices. The rally and march will take place on Sunday from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

"Instead of tacitly supporting raids on factory workers or janitors or construction workers or maids, this Congress should be working to enact real solutions to our immigration problems," added Gutierrez. "It is my sincere hope that in bringing the stories of the parents, children and workers of Postville back to Congress, our lawmakers will see the very real consequences of punitive actions in the absence of comprehensive immigration reform."

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